

Soviet forces seize Latvian ministry

RIGA, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet special forces, in a new operation against Baltic separatist governments, seized the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga Sunday after a fierce gun battle in which at least four people died. Latvian radio and a member of the Baltic Republic's parliament, Valdis Stein, said hospitals reported four dead civilians, including a Latvian journalist, and eight wounded in the 90-minute action. As angry Latvians gathered around a park near the ministry just off the historic city's Freedom Street, there was a huge blast elsewhere in the city. It was not clear if this was linked to the assault on the ministry.



Jordanian Times

An independent Arab political daily, subtitled by the Jordanian Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Jordan: Patriot missiles no threat

AMMAN (R) — The deployment of U.S. missiles in Israel to block Iraqi rocket attacks posed a threat to Jordan, a senior Jordanian official said Sunday. The United States rushed Patriot missiles and crews to Israel Sunday to defend against Iraqi attacks, prompting fears among many Jordanians that missiles could be intercepted and fall over the Kingdom. The official said Jordan was in no danger because the Patriot could detect the missiles only 12 kilometers from their targets, which meant the interception would occur over Israel. "When the Patriot intercepts the missile, it blows it up into bits and pieces in mid-air which reduces its effect," he said.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraq fires Scuds at Riyadh, Dhahran

Allied air assault continues

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ LOBBED three Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia Sunday night, but they were destroyed by three Patriot rockets fired from an allied military base in Dhahran, U.S. and Saudi officials said.

Three hours later, air raid sirens sounded again at the base, and four more Patriot rockets were heard being launched. Seconds later, two explosions were heard in the distance, suggesting they had destroyed more incoming missiles.

A Saudi official said the Patriots fired from Dhahran destroyed two Iraqi missiles. The source, who spoke to the AP on

Two 'strikes' reported

NEW YORK (Agencies) — There were strikes by two Iraqi Scud missiles in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on Monday, CBS news reported.

The U.S. network said its correspondents in Riyadh had confirmed two missile "hits" in the city. The attack on Riyadh was the first on the Saudi capital after four days of the Gulf war.

"We have no other details," the network said. Residents of Riyadh said at least one missile landed near the Saudi Defence Ministry.

condition of anonymity, said he received the preliminary information from the Saudi military command in Dhahran. However, the source was the first to report the earlier Iraqi missile.

A witness quoted by the AP said the Patriots were launched

from two different sites on the air base and that a military transport plane, which appeared to be approaching for a landing, suddenly aborted its landing and roared off.

In Riyadh, 360 kilometers southwest of Dhahran, AP correspondent Richard Pyle said he heard at least a dozen explosions within 90 seconds. It was unclear if the explosions were incoming missiles, outgoing Patriots, or something else.

One particularly powerful explosion was felt at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Riyadh, across the street from the Saudi Defence Ministry.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel 'will hit' Iraq despite Patriots

Combined agency dispatches



Saddam Hussein

day after a U.N. deadline passed for Iraq to remove its troops from Kuwait, which they overran Aug. 2.

The U.S. government said the Patriots arrived Saturday morning in Israel. U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters later in the day the first Patriot units "are now operational."

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday that his government has "not given any such assurance to anybody" that it will not retaliate for Iraqi missile attacks on his country.

"We will decide when to respond, just how to respond," Mr. Arens said in an interview on the CBS broadcasting network.

Mr. Williams said the Patriots "will be operated primarily by the U.S. troops who arrived with them. They will assist Israeli defence forces in operating them. We'll clearly work closely together on this."

He said it was the biggest military airlift to Israel since the 1973 war.

The Defence Department also said it was the first time U.S. troops have been "deployed to Israel specifically to assist the Israelis in the defence of their country."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated in weekend contacts with top U.S. officials that "Israel maintains its freedom of

(Continued on page 4)

Syrian artists, authors urge support of Iraq

Only a fraction of Iraq's power used until now — Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein gave a defiant speech to Iraqi people Sunday, saying Iraq would now strike back at the allied air attack after using only a fraction of its forces thus far.

Referring to U.S. President George Bush, President Saddam declared: "His defeat will be certain."

The five-minute speech, carried by Iraqi radio and monitored in Cyprus, was the first broadcast address by President Saddam himself since the war started. A previous statement in his name was read by an announcer.

"In the coming period, the response of Iraq will be on a larger scale, using all the means and potential God has given us

and which have so far only been used in part," he said in the nationally broadcast address.

"Our ground forces have not entered the battle so far, and only a small part of our air force has been used," he said. "When the confrontation begins with an all-out confrontation with all kinds of weapons and arms, the extent of the death in the enemy ranks will increase."

President Saddam said his forces are fighting with heroism and courage which is unprecedented in the history of war."

Referring to Bush, he said: "The infidel tyrant's missiles and aircraft are being destroyed."

President Saddam said the U.S.-led coalition thought it would be "a war of a few days" but has been forced to recalculate after four days of fighting.

"After a while, (Mr. Bush) will begin to feel frustrated, and his defeat will be certain, God willing."

U.S. government officials have often said a war with Iraq could be lengthy.

President Saddam appealed to Muslims and Arabs to strike against U.S. and NATO interests in the Arab World and elsewhere.

"It remains for us to tell all Arabs, all militant believers ... wherever they may be that it is your duty to embark on holy war," he said. "You should target their interests wherever they may be. This is your duty, and you should use it to complement the struggle of your brothers in Iraq."

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan urges halt to war to assess damage, consequences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for an immediate halt to the four-day-old war to enable the world to assess the damage it has caused and the threats it poses as a consequence of attacks on nuclear and chemical facilities.

In an interview with David Frost of TVAM, the Crown Prince also said Jordan, which has a proven record of being a country which honours its responsibility and of contributing to the international community as well as to regional stability, has been paying a high price for its positions for the past 23 years.

Asked what his immediate reaction was to what has been reported as Israeli restraint in retaliating for Iraq's missile attacks on Friday and Saturday, the Crown Prince said:

"I think we were dismayed by the massive attacks first of all on Iraq. The prediction was that the Iraqis will retaliate has come as much as of a surprise as of sadness that the Gulf crisis on the one side and the Palestine (issue) on the other — which everyone said was unrelated — (were) linked by weapons of mass destruction on the one side and by this clear joint security threat on the other. So, I think

that the feeling today is one of sobriety and certainly one of tremendous sadness of the fact that the kind of coverage that we saw in Tel Aviv, which miraculously did not effectively mean that death of people, has also not been applied in Iraq, where over 40,000 tonnes of bombs clearly resulted in many more casualties."

Responding to a suggestion/question that the American-allied forces "promise that they will go for military targets" seems to have been observed, the Crown Prince pointed out that the extent of the massive assaults remained unknown.

"We are a country that is, as (British Prime Minister) John Major said, a non-combatant," he said. "And if you listen carefully to me, I said that we are dismayed by any effect on civilians... I just like to say that I have many requests by anti-nuclear war doctors who said clearly they had appealed to the World Health Organisation and to the multinational force to assess damage to nuclear facilities: Have they resulted in radiation? Damages to chemical facilities: Have they resulted in seepage? We are talking about 17 million Iraqis who have been starved of medicines and largely of foodstuffs for five months."

(Continued on page 5)

Hardliners press Iran to drop neutrality

TEHRAN (R) — Hardline Iranian politicians stepped up their pressure on the government Sunday to abandon its Gulf war neutrality and join Iraq in an Islamic holy war against the United States and its allies.

The hardliners called for anti-war rallies and warned that the U.S.-led multinational force would try to subjugate Iran once they had pushed Iraq out of Kuwait.

Former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, leader of the hardliner camp within Tehran's clerical hierarchy, told parliament Sunday that it would be a disgrace if Iran chose to stand by and watch Iraq fight it out alone.

"Today the 'Persian' Gulf and countries of the region are burning in the fire and blood created by global arrogance headed by America, this arch Satan," Mr. Mohtashemi said.

"Today the Muslim nations of the region, and particularly the Iranian nation, have a religious duty to rise for a holy jihad in confrontation against the infidel forces of America, and Zionism," the black-turbaned politician said.

On Saturday, Iran's top policy-making group reaffirmed Tehran's neutral stance in the war. The declaration by the National Security Council gained further authority by the rare attendance of supreme leader

Gulf peace initiatives float around

Combined agency dispatches

CHINA WILL continue to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis. Premier Li Peng said in Beijing, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was on a shuttle in North Africa in a similar mission.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily quoted Mr. Li as telling a Japanese delegation that greater efforts should be made to resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels.

"We will, as before, make continued efforts with the international community to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," Mr. Li said.

China had close relations with Iraq before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and was one of Baghdad's major arms suppliers.

(Continued on page 5)

In previous statements China has supported calls for a Middle East conference to cover the whole range of Arab-Israeli problems.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday to discuss the Gulf crisis with President Chadli Benjedid, the official news agency APS said.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange for a ceasefire in the Gulf, along with Cuba, India, Yemen and the Soviet Union, to allow for a political settlement, APS said.

Quoting diplomatic sources in New York, the agency said "at

the moment, any proposal to the Security Council for a ceasefire would be vetoed by four of the permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain."

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said Sunday, Mr. Yasser Arafat had appealed to Western and non-aligned leaders to call for a ceasefire in the Gulf.

The agency said Mr. Arafat had sent messages to French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major who was asked to convey its contents to Washington.

(Continued on page 5)

Allied hopes of quick victory fade as long war looms

By Giles Elgood

Reuters

LONDON — Early forecasts of a short Gulf war have given way to sober warnings of a long conflict, as Iraq shows no sign of surrender after a massive air bombardment.

The French armed forces chief of staff, General Maurice Schmitt, said the war could last two to three months.

François Heisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the air battle alone could go on for another 10 days, and there were suggestions that it, too, could last for weeks.

Bob Hutchinson of Jane's Defence Journal, an authoritative defence journal, said: "U.S. spokesmen are wise to continue to caution against

euphoria. This is not going to be a short war made to order."

Allied missiles and bombers had been remarkably effective in their attacks, but "there is little evidence that they destroyed the Iraqi air force on the ground."

Even though airfield runways had been cratered by bombing attacks, planes could take off with a reduced payload from a shortened runway.

Mr. Hutchinson said that between 15 and 20 per cent of the Iraqi air force had been destroyed. Military sources have put the damage at no more than 50 of Iraq's 700 combat aircraft, with the rest moved to reinforced shelters in the north of the country.

So far, a full assessment of

bomb damage has been hampered by poor weather over the target areas.

Current assessments contrast with optimistic predictions from some allied air commanders before the start of hostilities that for the first time in history air power alone might win a war.

Analysts believe that the allied field commander, U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf, wants to ensure his air forces have minimised the risk of casualties before he launches his ground troops at Iraq's impressive fortifications on the Kuwait border.

The failure of Iraq's air force to take to the skies in large numbers has led allied commanders to claim a degree of air superiority.

Allied attacks were also expected to be directed against communications links, supply lines and anti-aircraft batteries

in Iraq's front line in Kuwait. If Iraqi anti-aircraft units were still operating, allied planes would find it difficult to provide low-level support for advancing ground troops.

This is deployed as a strategic armoured reserve on the Iraq-Kuwait border to lead a counter-attack if the eventual allied ground thrust succeeds in breaking through.

The 120,000-strong Republican Guard is equipped with up to 600 modern Soviet T-72 tanks.

Military sources said it could be difficult for giant U.S. B-52 bombers to destroy them if they have taken up dispersed defensive positions in the desert.

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Iraq has hidden 140 mobile missile launchers

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has 140 mobile missile launchers hidden away in underground bunkers and will continue blasting Israel with them, according to interviews with a Palestinian official and an Iraqi diplomat published Sunday.

"Saddam is doing the right thing, he is fighting Israel and America, what more do you want?" asked a diner at a high-class Damascus restaurant.

The statement showed Syrians are no longer reluctant to express opinions that do not follow the official line — although no one openly criticizes the government's position.

"In the past, mere mention of

(Continued on page 2)

"Saddam is not in Israel, he is fighting Israel and America, what more do you want?" asked a diner at a high-class Damascus restaurant.

"But he should not be doing this because the balance of power is not in his favour..."

Syria, a long-time foe of Iraq, and an unnamed Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official as saying in a separate interview that Iraq had the 110 mobile launchers "concealed in underground bunkers built in western Iraq to be used in sporadic barrages against Israel."

The launchers can each fire four missiles within a 24-hour period.

"This is part of Iraq's preparations to fight a 100-day war," said the PLO official, who Al Diyar said had arrived in Benghazi, Libya, from Baghdad Saturday

PLO says Israel using Turkish bases to hit Iraq

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday that Israeli jets were deployed at Turkish air bases to take part in the conflict.

Yasser Abd Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive committee, told a news conference Israeli planes had been at bases in Turkey — a member of NATO — since the war broke out last Thursday.

He did not say whether the planes had actually taken part in air raids on Iraq.

"Since the start," the Turkish military bases have received Israeli planes to participate in the aggression" against Iraq, Mr. Abd Rabbo added.

Mr. Abd Rabbo said Israel was "supplying information on movements and Iraqi bases in the west of Iraq, near the Jordanian border. There is no doubt that Israel is part of the (U.S.-led coalition's) scenario."

Turkey immediately denied the PLO accusation.

"This is absolutely baseless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungat told Reuters in Ankara.

U.S. jets launched attacks on Iraqi targets from the Turkish base of Incirlik for the second day running Sunday.

The PLO official appealed to Arab countries supporting the coalition — Syria, Egypt and Morocco — to change sides and join the Iraqi camp. Syria and Egypt have rejected such requests.

Abd Rabbo said the PLO, which was in contact with Iraqi leaders, had formulated a peace initiative to try to stop fighting.

"Look for a political solution

that takes into consideration the interests of all the nations of the region, not the interests of the U.S., a few monarchs and isolated leaders who are being dragged behind the U.S. strategy in the region," he said.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday for talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange a ceasefire in the Gulf to allow for a political settlement, the Algerian news agency APS said.

APS, quoting diplomatic sources in New York, said any ceasefire proposal would be vetoed by four of the Security Council permanent members: the U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Iranian newspapers denounced Turkey's stand on the Gulf war, saying Sunday that Ankara covet oil-rich northern Iraq.

The English language Tehran Times, which normally reflects government foreign policy thinking, said: "Turkey's de-facto participation in the war against Iraq indicated a dangerous and uncertain turn for the future of the region.

"Today, as long as Iraq maintains its military strength, (Turkey) may not openly get involved in the war, but ... if (the) Iraqi war machine is seriously destroyed, Turkey would capture Kirkuk and Mosul, two important oil-rich cities in northern Iraq and (this is) something many Turkish rulers have listed in their expansionist desires."

The paper said Iran would not

tolerate any carve-up of Iraq. Another newspaper, the Jomhuri Eslami, said in an editorial Turkey sought to seize northern Iraq to meet its energy needs.

"Turkey during the past several decades has always had a greedy eye on Kirkuk and Mosul in an effort to solve its question of energy supply."

Ankara says it has no territorial designs on Iraq.

U.S. air force planes have been mounting raids against Iraq from Incirlik since early on Friday.

Algeria and Washington have said little about them. A Bush administration official said that Turkish-based planes had taken part in attacks on Iraq and Turkish President Turgut Ozal said Friday U.S. planes "may have gone to Iraq."

A total of 36 F-15s, F-16s and F-11s took off from Incirlik early Sunday, along with an AWACS plane and only 35 returned.

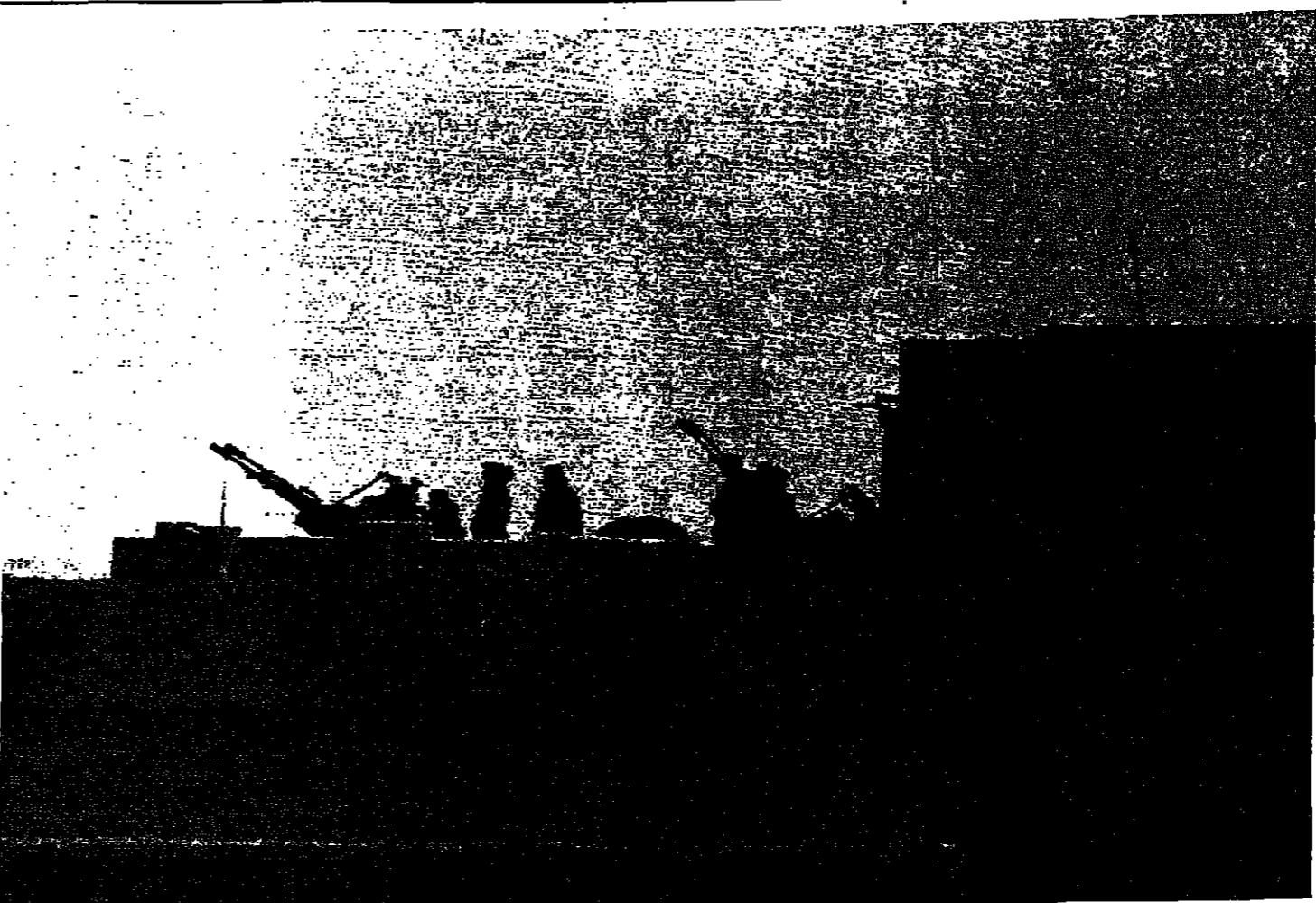
About three hours later, 10 fully armed jets took off on another sortie.

Spokesmen at the base refused to comment.

The use of the bases is politically sensitive in Turkey. Opposition deputies stormed out of the parliament Saturday, saying the legislature should have been informed of U.S. missions from Turkish territory.

Residents of southeastern Turkey, which borders Iraq, continued to stream out of the region. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined the exodus.

The paper said Iran would not



Iraqi soldiers man anti-aircraft guns on the roof of a building in Baghdad (the photographer does not want to be identified)

In battered Baghdad, farewell to normal life and Amex

By Bernd Debudermann
Reuters

AMMAN — "Sorry, sir. We no longer take American express," said the hotel receptionist, his words punctuated by the rumble of heavy explosions. "Things are not what they used to be."

In Baghdad, battered by wave after wave of American air raids, normal life seemed a distant dream and such humdrum chores as settling a hotel bill turned into an obstacle course.

Unlike the Al Rashid, headquarters for most of the international press, the Palestine (formerly Meridien) on the bank of the Tigris River virtually ceased functioning on day two of the Gulf war, along with much of the rest of Baghdad.

The cashier, hollow-eyed from exhaustion, lay huddled under a blanket in the hotel's air raid shelter, next to a young

mother who cradled her son and sang a soft lullaby to try to still his sobs.

The man with the key to the safe deposit boxes was missing and a search party of hotel staff went to look for him, shining flashlights into pitch-dark offices. He was found asleep under his desk.

Baghdad under the bombs provided lessons in how quickly the things one takes for granted disappear in war. Turning a tap and expecting water, for example, throwing a switch and expecting light, picking up a telephone and expecting a dial tone.

The U.S. raids ended all that in large parts of the city. "Have a safe journey," said the cashier, once the bill had been settled in dollars. "Hope to see you back in better times."

How long it will take for better times to return is anybody's guess in Baghdad, a city which seems ill-prepared to

withstand a prolonged assault of the scale and intensity of the first few days.

Halfway into the first week of the Gulf War, life in the city had already ground to a near halt. Few people ventured out of bomb shelters or their homes. Shops were closed, only a few cars moved.

Filling stations were closed, not for lack of petrol but for lack of people to man the pumps or electricity to power them.

In some residential areas of Baghdad, only the chirping of birds pierced a ghostly silence.

The first air assault, which knocked out strategic targets such as the air force headquarters and the Defence Ministry, carried out by missiles.

In the first two days of the war, there were no independent reports of civilian deaths and Iraqi statements that heavily populated areas had been struck appeared to

more propaganda than fact.

But as the air assault continued, the deep rumble of explosions from the outskirts of the capital appeared to come from B-52 raids, used extensively in Vietnam for carpet-bombing that turned huge areas into cratered wastelands.

In such attacks, "collateral damage," the military euphemism for civilian deaths and injury, is almost inevitable.

Until the first missile hit Baghdad, just 18 and a half hours after a United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait had expired, many Baghdadis refused to believe that their capital would be bombed.

"Bush has said he had no dispute with the Iraqi people," one Baghdadis said as the deadline for war ticked on. "Only the leaders. So how can they bomb the city?"

U.S. arranging military airlift for some Americans

DHAHRAN (AP) — The State Department said Saturday it was arranging a military airlift for Americans who want to flee northern Saudi Arabia and the nearby island emirate of Bahrain.

The announcements, by the consulate in Dhahran and the U.S. embassy in Bahrain, came a day after an incoming Iraqi Scud missile was destroyed over Dhahran, a coastal city in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, 320 kilometers south of the Kuwait border.

It was not clear when the evacuation would begin.

"The U.S. military must determine the best time to transport civilians safely out of the Gulf region," the Dhahran statement said.

There have been no commercial flights out of the area since the war began, and flights that did get out before hostilities erupted were jammed. Many scheduled flights were cancelled because of war jitters and soaring insurance premiums.

An estimated 8,000 Americans are in Dhahran, a major staging

area for the U.S.-led military action aimed at driving Iraq from Kuwait, many of them workers at the government-owned Saudi Aramco Oil Co. About 600 Americans are in Bahrain. The island, also being used by the anti-Iraq air and naval forces, is connected to Dhahran by a 20-kilometer causeway.

One U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said safety was not a concern in the Saudi capital of Riyadh and other areas outside the oil-rich Eastern Province. Riyadh is considered at the far end of the range of Iraq's modified Scud missiles.

The statements did not urge Americans to leave, and the Bahrain announcement said the State Department considered the island safe. Officials said the airlift was being arranged because Americans had no other way to leave the region.

Under strict Saudi labour laws, foreign workers here on contracts must give a 30-day notice before leaving their jobs. Those who fail to do so often lose deferred wages and benefits.

U.S. to press allies for more of Gulf war costs

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is expected to press its allies to pay more of the costs of the war against Iraq. U.S. officials said

is shelling out more than \$500 million a day for its attacks against targets in Iraq and Kuwait.

That is money the United States, with its burgeoning budget deficit, can ill afford.

And the cost of the war could double to \$1 billion a day if U.S.-led Arab and Western forces launch a ground assault, the analysts say.

U.S. lawmakers have criticised Japan and Germany for not doing more to help the Gulf war effort.

Japan, which has already pledged \$2 billion to support the allied forces, has signalled that it is willing to do more.

"Since we're faced with a war situation, it's only common sense that it will be more than before," Japanese government spokesman Misao Sakamoto told a news conference Friday.

An unconfirmed report in the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun Saturday said Tokyo would pledge \$5 billion to the U.S.-led forces at the Group of Seven meeting.

Analysts reckon Washington

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-532000
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-532000

QAQAB: Princess Hayya Hospital (03)314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Akhil Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2
Mahmud Maternity 6361140
Palace, Shmeisani 654171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 845295
University Hospital 845295
Al-Abdi, Abdali 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Al-Sabe, Al-Jahra 777101/3
Al-Sabe, J. Al-Sabah 775111/26
Army, Marka 8916175
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20
Anal Hospital 674135
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa Private Hospital (09)991017
Desa Hospital (09)986732

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Apple | 580 / 430 |
| Banana | 500 / 450 |
| Banana (Mukammar) | 450 / 400 |
| Beans | 500 / 400 |
| Carrot | 100 / 80 |
| Carrot (large) | 200 / 150 |
| Cauliflower | 220 / 180 |
| Corn | 200 / 150 |
| Cucumber (large) | 100 / 60 |
| Cucumber (small) | 200 / 140 |
| Eggs | 500 / 400 |
| Garlic | 200 / 150 |
| Lemon | 1700 / 1500 |
| Mallow | 150 / 100 |
| Marrow (large) | 150 / 100 |
| Marrow (small) | 280 / 220 |
| Onion (dry) | 150 / 100 |
| Onion (green) | 150 / 100 |
| Orange | 600 / 500 |
| Pepper (hot) | 420 / 350 |
| Pepper (sweet) | 220 / 160 |
| Potato | 330 / 280 |
| Radish | 150 / 100 |
| Sage | 400 / 300 |
| Spanish | 150 / 100 |
| Tomatoes | 170 / 100 |

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

17:00 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757.

Terransits Church Tel: 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541.

Assumption Church Tel: 625363, Tel: 625843.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel: 771751.

Assumption International Church Tel: 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy with expected shower rain and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min/max: temp.

Amman 4 / 12

Aqaba 10 / 20

Deserts 3 / 13

Jordan Valley 11 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

</div

Evacuee flood seen taking its own time

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An expected human wave from Iraq and Kuwait failed to materialise at the Jordanian border post by Sunday, two days after the Kingdom reopened its northeastern frontier for war refugees.

Around 3,000 Egyptians, several hundred Sudanese and a few other Arabs and non-Arabs, were the arrivals between Friday and Sunday mid-moon, border officials said. The figures do not include Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals.

International relief agency officials who had been braced to handle as many as 6,000 to 8,000 arrivals every day said they were puzzled by the trickle that has come through.

Jordanian expatriates who arrived here late Saturday said it appeared that many foreign residents of Iraq were not aware of the Jordanian decision to reopen the border Friday, nine days after closing it.

The Jordanian decision was announced about 30 hours after the American-led allied forces launched war on Iraq with a massive air strike on the capital and targets in several areas.

Officials and emergency situation experts said they could see several reasons were seen behind the relative calm at the Ruweisat post in the northeast.

Among the theories forwarded were:

— Communications had broken down shortly after the allied assault began, and this had rendered it very difficult to spread word in any broad level that the border with Jordan was reopened;

— Fears are high that travellers to the border could be exposed to air attacks during the 600-kilometre trip;

— Price of fuel has gone too high for many of the penniless Asian and other expatriates in Iraq and Kuwait to hire vehicles;

— Many of the 1.2-million-strong Egyptian and 120,000-strong Sudanese communities are farmhands married to Iraqi women and have settled down in Iraq with little contact with their homeland.

"They may not find any reason to flee as long as their lives are not directly threatened," said a Jordanian who frequently travels to Iraq on business trips.

Thousands of Baghdad residents have fled to the desert away from the capital and are now in the process of retreating. Therefore, it would take some time before they manage to pull themselves together and contemplate leaving the besieged country.

— Civilian casualties in the

allied air raids have been surprisingly low, considering the intensity of the bombings, and this could have encouraged many to remain.

"If these theories are right, then we need not expect any massive flow until the war touches the ground," said a senior international relief official referring to reported plans for a ground offensive as the next phase in the allied strategy to dislodge the Iraqi army from Kuwait.

"But such a ground offensive could take weeks to materialise," he commented, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Figures available to the Jordan Times indicated that around 2,100 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait remained in Jordan Sunday evening. These included 962 Vietnamese, 432 Sudanese, 60 Indians, 58 Bangladeshis and seven Sri Lankans.

Mohammad Yahya Maroof, chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said IOM was trying to find alternate means to send the evacuees home in the absence of regular airline flights to and from Amman.

In addition, 550 Egyptians also remained here awaiting family trips home across the Red Sea from Aqaba. The transit of Egyptians through Jordan is covered under an arrangement between the Cairo and Amman governments.

Also remaining in the Kingdom are 456 Somalis who applied for refugee status with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since their arrival here in August.

Some of them are housed at a transit camp at Azraq, 100 kilometres northeast of Amman, while others are accommodated in apartments and hotels in and around the capital.

The initial ground for the Somalis' approach to UNHCR was that they belonged to clans opposed to the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre in Mogadishu in the ongoing revolt and therefore faced persecution if they return home.

But prospects for their return home have brightened in view of the revolt, failing the upper hand. The rebel United Somali Congress is now controlling most of Mogadishu, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD).

The spokesman said that crossing both ways through Ruweisat was far lower in level than those of the past months following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

There are also a handful of Ethiopians and Liberians who remain in Jordan after approaching UNHCR for asylum.

Jordan has an unblemished record of respecting the code of political refuge by not repatriating anyone to any destination against his or her wish, according to UNHCR officials.

houses and countless other offences.

"I was there and it is not true," said Saed. He added that: "Amnesty International report was very political and American President (George Bush) seized this opportunity to launch a war against Iraq."

Saed pointed out that one of the problems between the Arabs and the West was a cultural one. "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a chance to regroup, but then President Bush would have enough time to get out of the 'messy box' he put himself into," Saed, who resides in Ephrata, Washington state told the conference.

Saed was in Iraq and Kuwait when the war broke out and also during the pre-war crisis. While reports were issued on the "atrocities" Iraq was inflicting on the Kuwaiti citizens, Saed told the press conference that "I went around to see if the reports had any credibility." As a physician, he said, "I conducted interviews with doctors and other staff at Kuwaiti hospitals and found the reports were baseless."

According to reports, the Iraqis cut off water supplies to hospitals, stole incubators to Baghdad from Kuwait, looted



AIRING ANGER: A group of Jordanian women Sunday staged a sit-in near the American Embassy to protest the American aggression on Iraq. The women carried placards and shouted

slogans denouncing the Zionist attack against Iraq and rejecting foreign intervention in Arab affairs (Petra photo)

U.N. officials thank King, government, parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of United Nations agencies operating in Jordan Sunday called on the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabyat and briefed him on their services and duties in the current adverse conditions.

They also expressed appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's nation-wide address last Tuesday in which he voiced Jordan's readiness to give full protection to foreign nationals in Jordan and lauded parliament's help to United Nations agencies to help them carry out their assigned success.

The delegation included United Nations Development Programme Director-General Ali Joga, and heads of United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency as well as the liaison officer at the United Nations truce supervision organisation and the head of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation.

Arabyat earlier sent a cable to the speaker of the French

the super powers to achieve their own selfish interests.

Arabyat stressed that Jordan was giving due care for and respect to all foreign nationals and international organisations and diplomatic missions operating in Jordan, and that Jordanian people would remain hospitable to foreigners as ever.

The Jordanian people, Arabyat added, realise the role played by the United Nations organisations in the Kingdom and are willing to fully cooperate with each one of them to achieve the assigned success.

The delegation included United Nations Development Programme Director-General Ali Joga, and heads of United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency as well as the liaison officer at the United Nations truce supervision organisation and the head of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation.

Arabyat also Sunday sent a cable to His Holiness Pope John Paul II calling on him to intervene and stop the Gulf war so that the problem can be settled through peaceful means.

Arabyat earlier sent a cable to the speaker of the French national assembly expressing Jordan's shock at France's involvement in military operations against Iraq.

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Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation.

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In war: First victim is truth

A CLEAR picture of the war in the Gulf is still difficult to assemble. The gap remains too large between what the two sides are saying for anyone to claim any success in discerning accurately the situation on the ground. What is evident, however, is that the Americans have been too optimistic about their chances of winning the war "rapidly and decisively."

If we are to go by what U.S. officials have been saying, the war would be over by now, in favour of the U.S. of course. But we should not be so naive as to believe that America's six-month-old war of nerves against Iraq and its president has not spilled over into the war days as well.

Saddam Hussein gave a speech to his people yesterday in which he volunteered to state that Iraq's military might is still largely intact, and that his greater response to the aggression against his country is yet to come.

Depending on one's perspectives, one chooses to believe what one wants. However, our feeling is that the Iraqi president was telling the truth when he said Iraq had indeed prepared for a long war and did in fact base its strategy on absorbing the first strike which the Americans launched rather than start the war itself.

If this needs proof, consider what actually happened during the first two days of the war. On Jan. 17 the Americans contended that Iraq's air force was totally destroyed. It turned out that it was not as the Americans themselves went back on their word only hours later.

Also on the first day of the war Iraq's elite Republican Guards were decimated, according to Pentagon communiques at the time. The second day they were annihilated. The third day, however, it was attacked. Just how an annihilated, decimated army can be attacked afterwards is something we cannot understand. But this is the way the Americans are telling their story. How do they expect anybody to believe them?

The same applies to Iraqi Scuds and to spreading rumours that Iraq was about to surrender.

But turning to Iraq once again: Saddam Hussein's promise that his army was still strong and capable of retaliating materialised in only a matter of hours. Within the space of minutes, Iraqi missiles fell on Riyadh, Dhahran and Bahrain. Those rockets were no less than the Scuds that the Americans were supposed to have destroyed in the initial wave of attacks on Jan. 17.

There is a story to be told here: Other than keeping a tight lid on their casualties, the Bush administration is misinforming its own people of what is really happening in the theatre of operations in the Gulf. The Iraqis, on the other hand, may not be informing us or their people accurately on the progress of the war and their own losses. But at least they have not gone as far as the Americans in misleading us.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

IN REMARKS at a press conference Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein urged concerned parties and the international community to help stop the conflict in the Gulf and open the door for just peace, Al Ra'i daily said Sunday. In his statement, the King was careful to remind the world that the devastating war in the Gulf has so far witnessed the use of explosives hitting Iraqi positions equal in magnitude to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan in the Second World War, the paper noted. The King's call to the world to take action and stop the war was meant to make the world community realise the scale of destruction which were do to nations and that they can never make peace or impose capitulation on others, but tend to sow hatred and malice, the paper pointed out. Those involved in the aggression on Iraq, the paper said, should realise that the war could spread with the most devastating consequences on the interests of many parties and the world's economy, the paper said. It stressed that there is no alternative to political dialogue and negotiations and there is no alternative to settling the Palestine question along with the Gulf issue and other problems plaguing the Arab region if a just peace is to be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that had it not been for Jordan Radio and Television, the local listeners would not have known the truth about the ongoing scenario in the Gulf simply because neighbouring Arab radio stations are competing with one another in order to show as much hostility towards Iraq as does the Israeli radio. Fakhri Kawa says that radio stations and foreign news agencies have been propagating hostile reports about Iraq and regrettably Arab radio stations except for Jordan Radio have been aiding these stations in their propaganda campaign on Iraq. These Arab radio stations are located in the capitals of those states which stand against Arab unity and are arrayed behind the United States which is waging aggression on Iraq, says the writer. Kawa says it is incumbent upon the Jordanian public to remain vigilant and listen to the voice of reason coming from Radio Jordan and Baghdad to know the truth about the present fighting in the Gulf region. Radio Jordan has been realistic in dealing with news reports without exaggeration and without deceiving the listeners, he adds. The writer calls on the public to fight all hostile rumours and enemy propaganda campaigns and urges the Ministry of Information to allow Radio Jordan and Jordan Television to extend their broadcasting hours so as to offer the listeners more coverage and more truth.

Americans and Patriots: Israel swallows the pill

By George S. Hawatmeh

Dr. Ralph Bunch, the late international statesman who served as acting U.N. mediator in the Middle East in 1948-49, once said: "The Israelis know very well when to start, but to their misfortune they do not know where to stop. This has been the cause of their tragedy throughout history."

Dr. Bunch did not live long enough to see Israel's involvement in the war for the Gulf today. If he did, he would probably think that his statement was never more right and applicable than in the current crisis.

The world had a golden opportunity not only to solve the Gulf crisis, but also the Palestinian problem, just before U.S. President George Bush ordered his and his allies' troops into action against Iraq on Jan. 17.

The Israelis, and of course

their American backers, saw it differently. This was an opportunity not for peace but to assert their hegemony over the whole area. A new world and regional order could be built on the ashes of the Saddam Empire. The stage would then be set for the powerful Israeli-American combine to dominate the scene for many years to come or even probably for ever. To them war was the answer.

Only five days have passed since the start of that mad onslaught against Iraq and its people, and it is thus too soon to claim that anybody has a clear sight of the picture.

It is nevertheless necessary and timely to draw one, rather important, conclusion from what has already taken place on the ground here in the Middle East.

Israel wanted a war against

such arrogance sold well — until the first Scud missiles started falling on Haifa and Tel Aviv early on Friday. After a largely superficial and ceremonial debate on whether to send their air force to retaliate against Iraq, the Israelis succumbed to the inevitable. They decided to call in American troops to defend them. Israel, the mightiest military power in the Middle East which had always insisted on self-protection, has finally admitted its weakness and vulnerability.

Everything in its possession, including American-made technological and military superiority over the Arabs, was not enough to protect the state from missile attacks launched by a country that has been under total siege for six months and under the heaviest aerial bombardment in history.

As if it was not enough for

the Israeli leaders to quietly swallow their pride and take back everything they had said about their indigenous invincibility, they also had to show film of the Patriot missiles' arrival in Israel, escorted of course by the very American soldiers whose intervention on behalf of the Jewish state the Israelis had always spurned.

Gloating over this major Israeli failure is tempting but not sufficient. There has to be a lesson that the Israelis have to learn from all of this. It is essentially the same old message that peace-makers and people of goodwill will always try to get across to them — without success. Military might alone can never ensure a state's security. The desire of one country for absolute security means absolute insecurity for all the others. The nation born by the sword must live by

it. Israel must understand that the logic of force on which it has always relied, without even attempting to reach a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, is ultimately fatal and self-destructing.

Having swallowed a bitter pill, and suffered immense psychological damage, in only a few days' of fighting in the Gulf, the Israelis can imagine what is likely to happen if this war escalates into the use of mass destruction weapons. Their legendary myopia should not prevent them from thinking beyond this war either.

Those who are underwriting Israeli intransigence and giving her a false sense of security should equally know that encouraging Israel to stay its present course can only lead towards her, and possibly their own, destruction.

Ozal, military reported at odds over war

By Jonathan C. Randal

ANKARA — U.S. warplanes based at a Turkish air base bombed targets in Iraq early this morning. Western diplomats said, sparking a dispute over the nature of their mission and reportedly reviving longstanding tensions between President Turgut Ozal and his military command.

Hours after the Turkish parliament granted war powers to Ozal's government and authorised U.S. planes to launch offensive strikes from Incirlik Air Base, near the southeastern city of Adana, Turkish journalists reported between 25 and 30 U.S. planes taking off at 1:00 a.m. from the base and landing there three hours later. The parliament's action overrode portions of a treaty between Turkey and the United States that said the base could only be used for NATO operations.

The General Staff responded with a statement saying it "has been given no authority to authorise or prevent United States aircraft based at Incirlik from taking off."

"In no democratic country in the world does a General Staff have such authority," it added. "Traditionally, the government speaks for the Turkish General Staff and the (General Staff) operates accordingly."

Informed sources said that a number of key generals held a long meeting Thursday night. After midnight, according to the semi-official Anatolian news agency, the Turkish air force commander, Gen. Siyam Tastan, and Gen. Dogan Gunes, Torumtay's successor as chief of staff, consulted first with Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and later with Ozal.

Particularly angering the Turkish military, informed sources said, was Ozal's reported determination to involve Turkey in the war in apparent violation of a Turkish policy of "peace at home, peace with the world," first voiced by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish state. Turkey has been a staunch member of NATO, guarding the alliance's southern flank against the Soviet threat for more than 40 years, but traditionally has wanted no part in it.

Appearing on television tonight, Ozal reassured that the U.S. planes had been on a training mission, then said that they "might have gone on."

Apparently angered by the changing government descriptions of the raids, the Turkish General Staff issued an unusually blunt statement denouncing government efforts to make the military assume responsibility for deciding what role the Turkish-based planes may play in the

Arab neighbours' often-turbulent politics.

There have long been tensions between Turkey's civilian government and its armed forces, which have seized power three times since 1960. The most recent coup was staged in 1980; after two years, the military returned power to a civilian government.

Meanwhile today, Western diplomatic sources reported the arrival of 48 additional American fighter aircrafts at Incirlik. That doubling the number of foreign planes allowed at the base was authorised Sunday when Ozal met Secretary of State James Baker here.

Anatolian reported that the number of Iraqi soldiers fleeing across the Turkish border reached 28 today. A Turkish official said 10 soldiers took refuge in police stations — the Washington Post.



Turkey is now party to the war

The following is a statement by the Turkish Democratic Left Party Chairman Bülent Ecevit on Turkish parliament's vote to give the U.S.-led allies logistic support in the Gulf.

The decision takes in the Grand National Assembly yesterday with the votes of the ruling party members who act under orders from President Ozal, is dragging Turkey into the Gulf war and turning it into a possible target for Iraq.

Soon after the voting in the parliament, President Ozal appeared all smiles in an American TV interview, boasting to admit that American fighter planes were now free to use Turkish territory and airspace in operations against Iraq.

Turkey has been dragged into World War I as a result of a secret agreement between Commander-in-Chief Enver Pasha and the Germans which allowed two foreign

ign warships to enter the Black Sea and attack Russia under Ottoman flags and names. A similar trick is now being played

even a large section of this small electorate is against Turkey's involvement in the war.

Turkey now goes a step further than providing the USA and its "coalition" partners in the Gulf war with logistic support and is actually taking part in the war — before even distributing gas masks to the people in the regions which may become the primary

targets of missiles with chemical warheads.

If Turkey is attacked and faces any loss of life as a result of the parliamentary decision taken at the request of the president and

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office, told Israel radio.

He added: "We cannot do it in a vacuum. It has to be done in coordination with all the powers that are involved there. It has to be done in a way that will not widen the conflict. It has to be done in a way that is effective and produces results and not just to relieve oneself of one's feeling of frustration."

Asked if Israel thought it could accomplish things the coalition had not, Hawkish Science Minister Yuval Neeman said:

"I believe that we are capable of doing things that are perhaps somewhat better than what's been done."

Mr. Neeman, a physicist who helped engineer Israel's nuclear programme, refused to elaborate.

Israeli Ambassador to Belgium Avraham Primor said in Brussels Israel would not respond with nuclear arms to an Iraqi chemical weapons strike, reiterating the Jewish state's declared policy not to be the first to introduce nuclear arms to the Middle East.

In Washington, the White House said Mr. Eagleburger was to discuss the situation "in light of the Scud missile attacks."

Sunday's cabinet meeting was the first called by Prime Minister Shamir since the Gulf war erupted on Thursday. It came after the first night in three in which Israelis have not been awakened by wailing sirens signalling a missile attack.

Ministers arrived at the meeting with gas masks, which have been distributed to all Israelis as a defence against chemical weapons. Cabinet secretary

Eliakim Rubinstein said the ministers discussed getting the country back to normal as quickly as possible.

Israel acquired two other Patriot batteries several weeks ago, but the Israeli crew which were to operate the sophisticated missiles have not completed training.

Meanwhile, civil defence authorities lifted some restrictions on Israelis outside what appears to be Iraq's target area. Farmers were urged to return to work, and residents of the far south and north were told to resume a normal routine.

Schools in Tel Aviv, other cities remained closed, and only workers in vital services went to work. City streets lacked their usual bustle and traffic.

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In Washington, the White House said Mr. Eagleburger was to discuss the situation "in light of the Scud missile attacks."

The United States will also send an aircraft carrier to the Eastern Mediterranean to protect Israel, an American television network, quoting Pentagon sources, reported Sunday.

The United States has six aircraft carriers already in the Gulf region.

The carriers Saratoga, Midway, John F. Kennedy, America, Theodore Roosevelt and Ranger are each manned by some 5,000 men and carry 75 to 90 warplanes.

"These are the main force Iraq is saving to confront a ground assault by the Western alliance after the waves of destructive air attacks are completed," the official was quoted as saying.

The official was also quoted as saying chemical weapons plants and medium-sized nuclear reactor were dismantled and concealed in bunkers built specially for such an eventuality in 1984.

He added that eight-to-12 metre deep shelters have been built underground in Kuwait and around Iraq's southern city of Basra to accommodate 400,000 Iraqi troops with their arms and supplies, according to Al Diyar.

"About 300 fighters and interceptors were left on the ground to fight raiding Western warplanes."

The official was also quoted as saying chemical weapons plants and medium-sized nuclear reactor were dismantled and concealed in bunkers built specially for such an eventuality in 1984.

"We also have other surprises," Mr. Khodeir said, without elaborating.

U.S. commanders had earlier reported about 30 Iraqi mobile missile launchers, presumably spotted via reconnaissance over the last five months.

LETTERS

A call to the Arab and Islamic World

IN these days our Arab and Islamic World have become subject to an unprecedented brutal and fierce annihilation and destruction campaign lead by the devil symbol, the United States, and its cheaply manipulated allies from all over the world.

The apparent target for this brutal campaign is our brother country Iraq, but it is quite obvious that the main target is what Iraq represents: Islam and Islamic power that might threaten the Imperialist-Zionist domination and interests in the area and in the whole world.

It was not enough for the Imperialist-Zionist circuits to see Al Aqsa Mosque suffering under Israeli occupation, they are now taking full attack on Islam last sites of Mecca and Medina to kill the Islam and the Islamic spirits and suppress Muslim forever. These targets can be brought about by occupying the holy lands in the Arab Peninsula, protect and strengthen Israel and wipe out any Arab or Islamic power in the area.

The USA ugly coalition has already deprived Arab and Islamic nations from their oil wealth and has turned the local regimes into dummy slaves serving the Imperialist-Zionist interests and obeying their orders.

Tens of thousands of tonnes of devastating bombs are falling daily on our Muslim brothers in Iraq, thousands of the most sophisticated death carrying warplanes, long and medium range rockets of all kinds are killing children, women and innocent old people just for the sake of killing and destroying, in a coward unjust and unholly destruction campaign.

In the light of the above and before it becomes too late we call on your conscious and your minds to stand up and protest by every means available to stop the brutal campaign of destruction against Iraq, to defend Islam and Islamic power, to save the lives of Muslims and to prevent the ghosts from achieving their wild goals. The holy war of Islam must be declared now, the satan should be fought and stopped. Every Muslim should stand up now and face bravely the danger on Islam. The Imperialist-Zionist campaign should be defeated and no doubt that God will award us with victory Islam will prevail.

On behalf of union of mine workers in Jordan
Khaled Shraim

Gulf War

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991 5

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Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

President Saddam said anyone taking up the "holy war" against Iraq's enemies could expect to be treated as a prisoner of war (POW) if captured, in accordance with international conventions, and would be released after the war ends.

He did not refer to reports earlier in the day by Iraqi media that Baghdad television broadcast interviews with several men said to be captured allied POWs.

On Saturday, U.S. officials in Washington summoned an Iraqi diplomat to warn him that Iraq should abide by international conventions in handing any POWs.

"When the battle becomes a comprehensive one with all types of weapons the deaths on the allied side will be increased with God's help," President Saddam said in the broadcast.

"When the death and dead mount on them the infidels will leave and the flag of Allah Akbar will fly over the mother of all battles," he said.

At the end of the address President Saddam called on all Arabs to rise against the multinational coalition.

"I want to say to all Arabs and all believers everywhere that you have a holy duty to wipe out the group of infidels and the bad leadership everywhere and to target their interests, anywhere," President Saddam said.

Here is a partial text of the address by President Saddam.

"Our land forces have not been used in the battle until now and only a fraction of our air forces have been used.

"Our army air wing and naval forces have not been used.

"...They know that the Iraqis will fight and they will fight persistently and continuously.

"We tell all the Arabs, all the believing stragglers... wherever they are to rise to jihad and struggle by targeting the forces of evil, treachery and corruption everywhere and targeting their interests wherever they are.

"This is your duty which should be linked to the struggle of your brethren in Iraq. You will be part of our valiant armed forces through your struggle and the efforts made by the believers, our stragglers.

"And if you are seized by the enemy you will have a reward from God and you will be inevitably released when the war is over 'according to international' laws and conventions on the release of prisoners of war.

"Therefore you would have been pleasing your God and your conscience and you would have been loyal to your principles and values.

"God is Great, God is great and shame to the shameless."

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

taking part in the aggression against Iraq, Crown Prince said:

"Well, clearly the Jordanian Parliament is a reflection of the constituency feeling of many constituents... a unanimous decision of all members of Parliament. I can't judge what they have to say. But let me remind you that there has been some room in all capitals including Western capitals, during the early days of the crisis — I wish that there has been more room — for quiet diplomacy. I wish that the single might in this military option has been pursued could

have been compared with diplomatic initiatives. We feel extremely vulnerable in this country. We do not have weapons of mass destruction, we do not have Americans manning Patriot missiles. We do not even have Stinger missiles, which were kept from us at the time we asked for them from the United States and yet we are not with or against anyone. We are effectively standing on principles, searching for peace, and political solutions, if we are given a chance.

The Crown Prince said that the Jordanians and Palestinians are harmonious in the perception of developments in the region. We are very clear in the fact that over the past several months, when democracy started in Jordan, there has been greater oneness than at any time in the past.

"As far as alienating the West, we are different in views and opinions, but we have channels of communication, including this one, if I may say, and I think our credibility is not based on being put in the cupboard one day, and being dusted on the other, but based on the constituency of our policies.

I have noticed with interest Mr. Owens suggesting that the future of the Arab-Israeli affair would be discussed between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Assad following the crisis and referring to a role for the Palestinians. I hope that we can see a regional order developing, not on the basis of friendly Syrians today and anti-Syrians yesterday, or friendly Iraqis today and friendly Iraqis yesterday, but on the basis of transactional thinking and regional solutions. It is only in that way that we can contain the kind of violent statements which have been made, not only in this capital but in so many Arab and Muslim capitals."

The interviewer asked: "Can you reassure us that you and your brother are not going to act on that Jordanian Parliament's resolution to strike at American interests?"

The Crown Prince replied: "Our position is that we will not become a battlefield. We will stand up for our sovereignty and our integrity. We are a responsible and contributing member to the community of states and to regional stability. This has been very clear. We have paid the price for 23 years. We have sought a peaceful negotiation to the Arab-Israeli conflict and today you say that we have alienated the West. Why? Because we have not joined a military coalition. I hope that our Western interlocutors will be consistent with us and the credibility can be maintained."

Initiatives

(Continued from page 1)

The message to Mr. Mitterrand pleaded for the "rehabilitation of political efforts as the only way to a peaceful solution to the crisis, in cooperation with Arab countries and the Security Council."

Similar messages were sent to the European Community, Sweden, Yugoslavia, India and Indonesia.

The Security Council president Saturday handed a Soviet peace proposal and an Indian plan for a ceasefire to the Iraqi ambassador.

Neither plan has the backing of the whole council, and there are serious obstacles to both.

Zaire Ambassador Adeito Nzengeya, who presides over the

council this month, met with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari to discuss the peace proposals some council members are advocating.

After the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expired, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said his government would support Iraq's demand that all Middle East problems be addressed if Iraq would announce its withdrawal.

Iraq did not show no inclination to leave Kuwait, and the Iraqi government has reiterated several times this week that Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq, and they will never relinquish it.

The State Department has also announced reservations about Mr. Gorbachev's initiative, which pledged his support for a "mechanism" to solve all Middle East security issues.

U.S. officials suspect that the "mechanism" would be a Middle East peace conference. The United States opposes linkage of Iraq's withdrawal to any other issue and Israel opposes any such conference.

The other peace plan that the Iraqi diplomat received was a proposal for a 48- to 72-hour ceasefire of the U.S.-led allied campaign against Iraq.

Algeria first raised the idea Thursday, and the Indian ambassador discussed it with the Security Council president on Friday.

The United States and Britain, the two most active coalition members, would block the council from amending its Resolution 678, which authorised the use of "all necessary means" to drive Iraq out of Kuwait after Jan. 15.

One U.S. official said on condition of anonymity that the Security Council will not meet formally again on the Gulf crisis until the previous resolutions have been implemented — when Iraq is out of Kuwait and the emir's government returns to Tahrir.

Mr. Anbari told the council president that he would convey the ideas to Baghdad, but noted that U.S. bombing of the Iraqi capital has made communications with his government difficult.

Ecuador's ambassador, Jose Ayala Lasso, was to meet the council president Sunday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, to discuss the views of the 102-nation group on the crisis.

Williams told reporters that U.S. officials believed the first Iraqi missiles fired Sunday night carried conventional, not chemical, warheads, and were launched from southern Iraq.

He said "obviously the threat continues... the No. 1 priority is to find and destroy all the Scud sites."

Iran Defence authorities in Dahiran, an eastern port city on the Gulf, seemed to be caught off guard by the missile attack.

In addition to the allied military base, the city is the home of Saudi Aramco, the government-owned oil giant.

Iraq fired up to five battlefield missiles into Saudi Arabia near U.S. marines Saturday but the rockets fell into empty desert and did no damage, military officials said.

"The fact that some gullible or timid individuals think we should not worry about this war and the people should not be concerned is a source of great regret..." he said.

The Society of Combatant Clergymen, an umbrella group for clerics, urged Iraqians to take to the streets in protest against the war launched by the United States and its allies with massive

"The issue is not about the past events between Iran and Iraq. American marines and Western crusaders have come to destroy Iraq's war machine first before turning against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he told his fellow deputies.

"Let us live and die with honour. To live under the shadow of America's bayonets is a shame to us. It will be captivity and disgrace to us."

"The fact that some gullible or timid individuals think we should not worry about this war and the people should not be concerned is a source of great regret..." he said.

Neither plan has the backing of the whole council, and there are serious obstacles to both.

Zaire Ambassador Adeito Nzengeya, who presides over the

air strikes on Iraq early Thursday.

The group described the war as an "arrogant move to destroy the human and material resources of Muslims and tip the balance in favour of the usurper Zionist regime."

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, another deputy, told parliament the U.S.-led attack on Iraq was not aimed at liberating Kuwait but striking at Islam.

"We should not leave the Iraqi people standing alone in this battle since if the United States emerges victorious it will not leave the region easily," he said.

Ayatollah Khalkhali became notorious in the West after he appeared on television poking a stick into the burned corpses of American soldiers who died in 1980 after a failed attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran.

But the daily Jomhuri Islami, abandoning its usual hardline stance, blamed Iraq for the war in the Gulf.

"Direct responsibility of starting the destructive war rests with the Baghdad regime. Now the unity within the ranks of the enemies of the global movement of Islam has been shattered and they are facing one another. This is a divine vengeance," the paper said in an editorial.

Jomhuri Islami said the West was allied with Iraq during its war with Iran and the two sides were facing "divine retribution" for their anti-Iranian acts.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani urged the Islamic community Sunday to try to end the Gulf crisis.

"It is incumbent on all Muslim countries to make efforts to bring an immediate end to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and improve the situation through cooperation," he told the new Indonesian ambassador in Tehran.

Scuds

(Continued from page 1)

In the earlier Dharan incident, neither U.S. Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams nor Saudi officials in Dharan could identify the intended target of the Iraqi missiles.

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no threats against them but they thought it safer to leave.

— Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Gulf crisis with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmar Abdul Meguid Sunday, officials and diplomats said. Mr. Abdul Meguid, accompanied by Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, arrived unexpectedly in the Syrian capital earlier in the day.

The state-owned newspaper Al Gomhuria said Yemeni demonstrators stoned the embassy building and the residence of the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa for three successive days.

The newspaper did not say when demonstrations took place but said they were organised to protest Egypt's opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Red Sea state of Djibouti, used by France as a military base, has banned demonstrations over the Gulf war, Djibouti radio reported.

The Interior Ministry said protests which took place on Saturday were "prejudicial to the security and peace of the Republic of Djibouti. And for this reason it is not permitted to hold such demonstrations," the radio reported.

Hawatmeh said it was "the mission of the Palestinian people to liberate the occupied territories" and not to travel abroad for fear of wave of anti-Arab racism in Europe during the Gulf war, the official daily Al Moudjahid said.

Two British minehunters have entered the Gulf to reinforce the ability of the anti-Iraq allies to find and destroy mines.

A British army spokesman said Iraq would be forced out of Kuwait but saw heavy casualties for the allied forces as a consequence.

— Military officials referred to the shift to bombing Iraqi troops as "softening up the opposition," in advance of a possible land offensive.

American F-15 and F-111 fighter-bombers have begun missions from air bases in Saudi Arabia, but were hampered by heavy cloud cover over Iraq.

Despite the U.S. military assertion that 80 per cent of the thousands of air sorties had hit their targets, military analysts noted that Iraq still has a powerful army and still holds the ground in Kuwait.

Iraq's air force has put up only a slight defence, either because the aircraft were hemmed in shelter by attacks on airfields or because their power was being husbanded for use later. U.S. officials have been warning all week that the low allied casualty count so far could change rapidly once ground combat begins.

In other Gulf developments:

— Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has agreed to discuss the wider problems of the Middle East once the war with Iraq is over, a Luxembourg government spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said Mr. Levy had spoken by telephone Sunday to Jacques Poos, foreign minister of Luxembourg and current president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers.

The two discussed the post-war situation, the spokesman said, adding: "They agreed to discuss solving the problems of the region."

He could not say whether they had specifically mentioned the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

— About 100 French women and children flew out of Mauritania Sunday after a week of massive pro-Iraqi demonstrations.

A French diplomat speaking by telephone from the capital Nouakchott said there had been

Shamaa and 16 of his staff returned home Saturday in accordance with the decision. Foreign Ministry sources say only nine personnel were left behind in Sanaa to look after the interests of Egyptian workers in Yemen.

The state-owned newspaper Al Gomhuria said Yemeni demonstrators stoned the embassy building and the residence of the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa for three successive days.

U.S. officials also said a total of 22 allied soldiers — 13 Americans and nine from other countries — were either killed or are missing in action.

Iraq said that the town of Takrit, birthplace of President Saddam Hussein, was hit by an "enemy" missile Saturday night.

A military communiqué read on Radio Baghdad did not say what damage, if any, was caused by the missile strike.

The Iraqi leader was originally known as Saddam Hussein Al Takriti but he later dropped the family name that linked him and several other top leaders to the town of northern Iraq.

Iraq also said Saturday allied planes have bombed the Shi'ite Muslim holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in central Iraq killing several people.

"Enemy planes raided the holy shrines in Najaf on Friday night. The enemy planes also bombed the city of Karbala which left a number of martyrs and destroyed a number of houses," said a military communiqué broadcast on Baghdad radio.

— More than 600 bomb scares have kept New York city police since the start of the war last Thursday.

Twenty-three Iraqis were prisoners as a result of the raids. Besides the 12 originally seized during the attack on oil platforms, had subsequently been captured from rubber rafts after fleeing the platforms.

Wimbledon are still a thorn in the flesh for Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Most fans have never heard of Warren Barton but Liverpool will not forget his name in a hurry.

"Warren who?" Before Saturday, when the English Soccer League champions met old foes Wimbledon at Anfield, the name would have brought blank stares and an occasional shrug of the shoulders.

No longer. Sigged from fourth division last summer, the 21-year-old defender celebrated his first appearance at Anfield with a goal that ousted Liverpool from the top of the table.

"To score a goal here is unbelievable," Barton said delightedly. "It's the first time I have ever been to Anfield and it's lovely to come here and take in the atmosphere."

He did more than just that. With only nine minutes remaining, his equaliser shattered Liverpool's hopes of staying ahead of rivals Arsenal, who beat Everton 1-0 at Highbury.

Until then, Liverpool had looked sure of victory, with Eng-

land World Cup winger John Barnes putting the team ahead in the first half with a delightful lob over the goalkeeper.

But Barton, despite a sore leg, ended the Anfield celebrations — and raised a huge cheer at Highbury — with a 25-metre free kick that sailed into the corner of the net.

Arsenal now have 51 points to Liverpool's 50, while Crystal Palace stayed third with 45 despite losing their undefeated home record in the league to Norwich, who romped home 3-1.

In Scotland, Rangers kept up their charge towards a third consecutive title with a 2-0 win at Hibernian.

It was the first time this season that a club other than Liverpool, who still have a game in hand, had led the league and was only the second time they had failed to win at home.

"I think we should have won the game," said Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish. "We have only ourselves to blame... we had two or three chances but we

didn't take them."

But if any team was going to spoil Liverpool's party, it would be Wimbledon, the rough newcomers who caused a major upset by winning their first league match at Anfield in 1987.

A team with a reputation for the long ball, physical confrontation and a notable lack of football finesse, they also beat Liverpool at Wembley in the F.A. Cup final of 1988.

Arsenal, penalised two points earlier in the season for a mass brawl on the pitch, pretended to be less excited by the top spot and 1-0 win over Liverpool's city rivals Everton.

Paul Merson was the goalscorer in the 48th minute.

"I'm not getting over-excited yet. The only time to do that is when you are top in May," said manager George Graham, whose team are unbeaten in the league despite a series of setbacks.

"It is nice to be up there but there is still more than a third of the season to go," Graham

cautioned.

Former Wimbledon midfielder Vinny Jones also hit the sports headlines Saturday but for entirely negative reasons.

The Sheffield United captain was booked after just five seconds at Manchester City and sent off in the second half. It was believed to be the fastest booking in league history.

Sheffield lost 2-0 and stayed bottom of the league.

Nottingham Forest's England defender Des Walker, who has never scored a goal for the club, was left wondering whether he had scored an own-goal in the 1-1 draw at Southampton.

Forest manager Brian Clough said afterwards: "Walker's goal. Des has still never scored for us at the right end."

But the referee attributed it to goalkeeper Mark Crossley and Southampton said striker Alan Shearer had scored.

"I need it more than Walker — I had only got one league goal before that this season," insisted Shearer.

Becker, Patrick McEnroe reach Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — On the first anniversary of John McEnroe's expulsion from the Australian Open Sunday, his younger brother Patrick joined Boris Becker in the quarterfinals of this year's Grand Slam tournament.

Patrick beat Mark Woodforde 6-2 6-4 6-1 in a controlled performance which the Australian left-hander compared with the best of the more talented and temperamental John, missing in Melbourne because of a shoulder injury.

"Patrick played very well, he just came up with all the answers and really outplayed me today," said Woodforde, John's double partner. "He's very confident on court at the moment."

However, Becker is still looking for his tough. He lost his opening service game to qualifier Wayne Ferreira and looked tired following his marathon third round win over Italian Omar Camporese two days ago, the longest match in open history.

The German second seed was happy to slug it out from the baseline for long periods with the 19-year-old South African who showed no fear, especially in a second set tiebreak. But Becker's experience finally prevailed and he won 6-4 7-6 6-4.

The big names in women's tennis continued their untroubled progress towards their allotted semifinal places with top seed Steffi Graf losing one game, French Open champion Monica Seles three and U.S. Open champion Gabriela Sabatini four.

Third seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States had it tougher in a 6-3 6-3 win over Belgium's Sabine Appelmans and now meets Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria who beat her 15-year-old sister Magdalena, the youngest player in the tournament, 6-3 6-2.

Graf said she was looking forward to some competition from Novotna in the next round after dropping just 11 games so far.

But she is losing no sleep over the match. After her 6-0 6-1 defeat of Czechoslovakia's Karina Habsudova she went to the beach rather than practise.

The three-times open champion has not lost to Novotna in nine previous meetings.

The unseeded Huber, known as the young Steffi, has recorded her best Grand Slam performance here, but she now meets

Seles.

Seles.

The Yugoslav was back to her destructive best against the crew-cut Catherine Tanvier of France, after a below-par performance in the third round, winning 6-2 6-1. Seles has dropped just eight games in the first four rounds.

Sabatini and Rachel McQuillan almost sent the sun-drenched crowd on centre court to sleep in the first set, making a string of elementary mistakes from the baseline.

Thankfully, the Argentine upped the pace in the second set, winning 6-3 6-1 and ending the hopes of the last Australian left in the two singles draws. Sabatini now plays sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

Huber has a big forehand and an even-bigger smile.

But one way to make the 16-year-old tennis player frown is to call her the new Steffi Graf.

The win prompted more comparisons with Graf, the world's top-ranked player who hails from the same North Baden region of Germany.

"Steffi is something special,"

Huber said. "I don't like it when people say these things."

Graf is not her ideal

and denies there is any pressure on her because of the comparisons.

"I'm still very young and I'm learning so much," she said.

"There are many areas of my game I need to improve. Every thing, really."

Huber, a solidly built player who moves quickly and purposefully about the court, has eliminated no. 7 Mansuel Naleeva-Fraguier, American Pam Shriver and Zvereva earlier

way to the last eight — her best performance in a Grand Slam tournament so far.

"She hits strong shots all over the court and has good groundstrokes," Seles said. "She's a fighter."

Seles refuses to say whether Huber can reach the top.

"Only time will tell," she said.

"She has the potential, but so do I and so does Jennifer (Capriati). Remember, no one is a magician and can say, 'she is going to be no. 1.'"

Johnson insists he will regain form

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ben Johnson, still looking to find the form that made him the world's fastest human, insists he will eventually be just as fast without steroids as he was with them.

Johnson, who was stripped of his gold medal in the Seoul Olympics in 1988 for using steroids, is just beginning his comeback effort. He has finished second twice at 50 metres indoors, including Friday night's runner-up finish to Andre Cason at the Sunkist Invitational.

"A lot of people will think I won't be able to run faster because I was on drugs," Johnson said after clocking a 5.74-second 50 to Cason's 5.69 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

"They will soon see they are wrong. I have the same speed as two years ago. I think I can run fast enough to win the gold medal at Barcelona (in the 1992 Olympics)."

Johnson, who had finished second to Daron Council the previous week in his return to track after a two-year-ban, has had excuses for both his losses.

He complained after losing last week in Canada, before his adopted countrymen. That he had misjudged the finish line.

The world record is 5.61.

shared by Manfred Kokot of East Germany and James Sanford.

Johnson was greeted by a mix of boos and cheers from the crowd of 12,438 — about 2,000 more than was expected — when he was introduced before the race. He was mobbed afterward by photographers and reporters, about three times as many as normally cover the event.

The 29-year-old Johnson was clocked in 5.77 in the 50 metres at the Hamilton Indoor meet the previous week, with council winning in 5.75. Cason was fourth in that race.

Johnson claimed afterward that he had pulled up after 50 yards because he mistook the 50-metre finish line for the 50-metre finish line.

Meanwhile Sydney, Australia, Kerry Saxy of Australia set a world best time in the women's 1,500-metre walk Sunday in an invitational track and field meet.

Saxy, who now holds 29 world best or official world records over a variety of walk distances, covered the distance in 5 minutes, 50.41 seconds, beating the former mark of 5:55.3 set by Sada Eidikyte of the Soviet Union.

PSV stays top of Dutch League

AMSTERDAM (R) — Leaders PSV Eindhoven, showing little benefit from a playing visit to India during the winter break in the Dutch Soccer League season, managed only a lacklustre 1-1 draw against Groningen Saturday.

However, the result against their third-placed visitors ensured PSV would stay top this weekend. The Eindhoven team are now three points clear of arch rivals and defending champions Ajax.

Second-placed Ajax, with two games in hand, are at home to SSV Schiedam, 12th, Sunday.

The 25,000 crowd at Eindhoven found little to enthuse about, and PSV team chief Bobby Robson, England's former manager, still appears to have problems blending his players into a coordinated unit.

PSV had a narrow escape in the 39th minute as goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen just saved from Edwin Olde Riekerink, but they seized the lead a minute before halftime when a curving shot from midfielder Erwin Koeman set up a header for Giga Popescu.

PSV's subsequent pressure failed to earn further reward, even when Brazilian striker Romario came on in the 61st minute, and Groningen equalised through Ulrich Wilson in the 76th minute.

Second-placed Ajax, with two games in hand, are at home to SSV Schiedam, 12th, Sunday.

The race was the last women's skiing race before the world championships start in Saalbach, Austria this Tuesday.

Kronberger finished the first part of the season with an overwhelming lead in the overall standings.

She now has 276 points in 16 races with Merle moving into second place with 92 points.

It was her 14th career victory

and third in a row counting last weekend's slalom in Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia.

The race was the last women's skiing race before the world championships start in Saalbach, Austria this Tuesday.

Kronberger, starting 14th, managed to control the speed and finished in 1:20.99.

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Meldrick Taylor set a blistering pace in the first half of the fight and scored a 12-round unanimous decision over Aaron Davis to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight championship.

It is the second world title for the 1984 Olympic champion, who was the International Boxing Federation junior welterweight champion before losing it to Julio Cesar Chavez.

Taylor simply could not deal with Taylor's hand and foot speed in the first six rounds of Saturday night's battle in a ballroom of the convention centre as he suffered his first loss after 32 victories, 20 by knockout.

Taylor, now 26-1 with 11 knockouts, came out blazing, mixing his attack to the head and body as he dominated the first

four rounds, shaking Davis on three occasions.

Taylor, however, was penalised a point by referee Arthur Mercante in the second round for hitting low.

Davis, who weighed 145½ pounds (66 kilograms), one-half pound (one-fifth kilogramme) more than Taylor, had an edge in the fifth round, and he scored with several short blows to the head. Then Taylor took control again in the sixth round, which for action was the best round of the fight.

The pace slowed in the last five rounds and Davis held his own, scoring with several sharp left jabs. The jab was Davis' most effective weapon, but he was unable to use it much in the first half of the fight as Taylor kept him busy defending himself.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

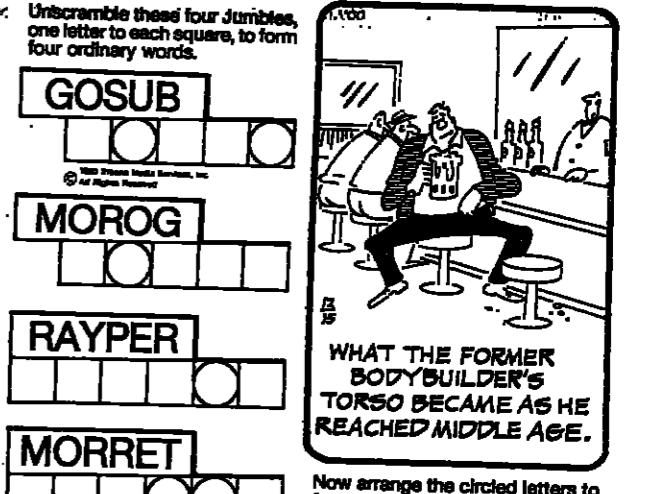
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

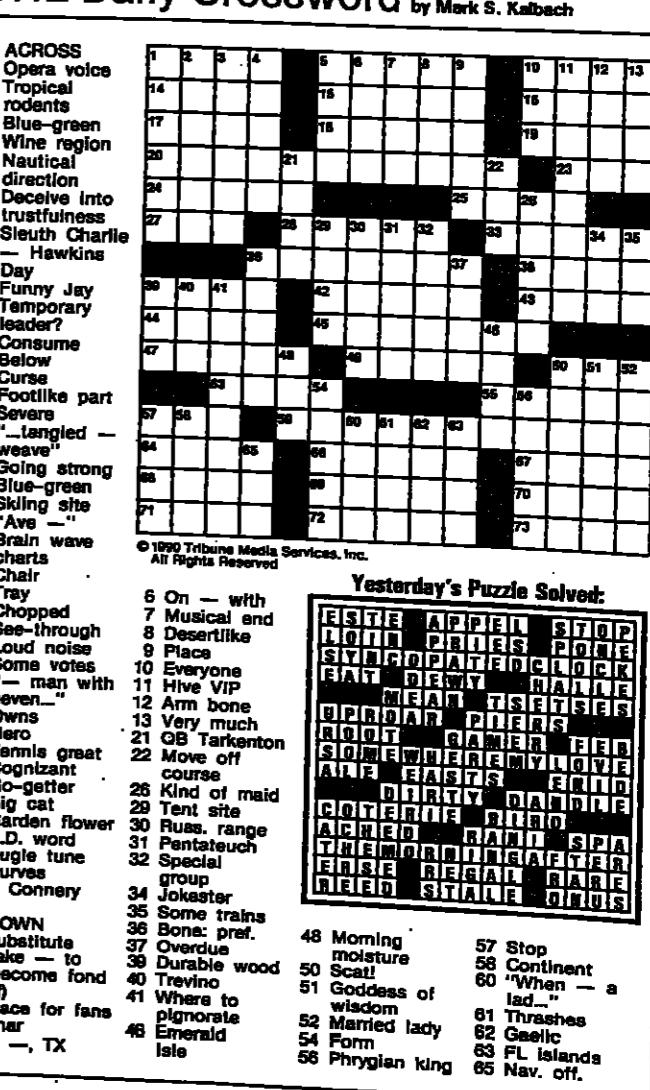
THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME



Yesterday's Jumble: NEEDY BUILT DURESS ASSURE
Answer: He was carrying on a great love affair -- UNASSISTED

THE Daily Crossword

by Mark S. Kalbach



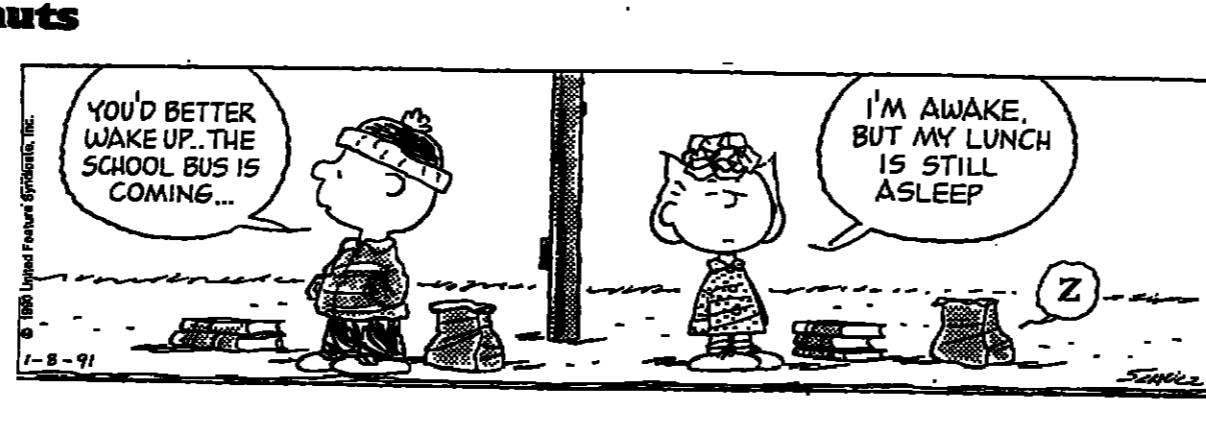
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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TOO MANY FINESSES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 9 2
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Economy

Lloyd's insurers open Sunday for first time in 300 years

LONDON (R) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market opened Sunday for the first time in its 300 years as the Gulf war sent rates soaring.

Fear that conditions may change quickly means insurers will only quote Gulf rates short term.

"The reason we are open is because we are only quoting rates 24 hours ahead," said Christopher Rome, a leading war risk underwriter.

He said he had written a few

contracts Sunday morning and had enquiries from oil platform owners and from shippers looking to load Saudi Arabian crude.

A Lloyd's spokesman said around 200 people were scattered around the Lloyd's "room," which is housed in a futuristic building in the London hub of British finance.

The insurance business began in a corner of a coffee shop called Lloyd's 300 years ago.

Today, aircraft as well as ships are insured.

Industry sources said rates for

aircraft hull insurance to the Middle East had risen sharply. Cover for a flight to Tel Aviv was quoted at 2.5 per cent of the aircraft's value compared with one per cent Saturday.

They said insurance rates for tankers to northern Saudi Arabia were as high as seven per cent against 3.5 to five per cent at the end of last week.

Oil industry sources say insurance costs will add some 50 cents to the price of a barrel loaded in the western Gulf.

Yamani: Oil prices could sink to \$12

AMSTERDAM (R) — Oil prices could plunge to \$12 a barrel, former Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, told a Dutch newspaper.

In an interview with Kraut op Zondag published Sunday, Yamani said the underlying supply situation in the market would eventually force prices lower.

He said that despite the outbreak of the Gulf war increased output from Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members had compensated for the 4.4 million barrels a day of lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti production.

It had also lifted total production by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to 23.5 million b/d.

After a week of wild price swings with a record one-day crash Thursday, the March futures price for North Sea Brent crude, a world benchmark, ended Friday at \$18.20 a barrel. Its lowest level since Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug.

It shot up as high as \$33.50 on panic buying in the first couple of hours after news of the U.S.-led attack against Iraq. But prices slumped as traders presumed air strikes had removed the threat of Iraq damaging Saudi Arabian oil fields.

Four months ago, Yamani said oil prices might rise to \$60 if war broke out in the Middle East, because prices were then being driven up unnecessarily by oil companies holding on to excess stocks.

Egyptian oil prices go down

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's oil export prices dropped after the Gulf war started and now range between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel.

Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil was quoted as saying Sunday. Kandil told Al Ahram newspaper that the new Egyptian export prices reflected the sharp decrease in the world oil market after the U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq and Kuwait Jan. 17.

"I followed myself the developments and sudden changes in the world oil market in the United States, Europe and Asia. Egyptian oil prices on the... market were affected by the reductions and for the two past days have ranged between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel," Kandil told the newspaper.

He did not specify the exact price of each of Egypt's varied crude blends, but said their prices were higher than those of similar blends on the world market.

G-7 leaders try to show economy can weather war

NEW YORK (R) — The finance leaders of the world's richest nations appear set to close ranks this week to try to convince nervous investors that the world economy can weather a war in the Gulf relatively unscathed.

"We want to let markets know that whatever happens in the Gulf, it's not going to be an economic disaster," said one official, here for a two-day meeting starting Sunday.

The meeting will give finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations their first chance to take stock of the world economy since U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq Thursday to force it out of Kuwait.

Although the G-7 — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — are set to discuss a range of issues from the Soviet economy to the dollar, the Gulf war will probably dominate the talks.

U.S. officials said Washington

is likely to ask its allies, particularly Germany and Japan, to contribute more to the war effort and to the hardest-hit developing nations.

So far, news from the war has been good as far as the global economy is concerned. Oil prices plunged and world stock and bond markets bounded higher last week as fears that the war would damage Saudi Arabia, oil fields dissipated.

If sustained, the steep drop in oil prices should prove a tonic to the slowing world economy by paving the way for lower interest rates and higher consumer spending, economists said.

"The extraordinary decline in oil prices, assuming they stay down, would clearly have a major effect," Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a newspaper interview Friday.

But he cautioned against too much optimism, telling the Wall Street Journal: "We are still in an unstable environment."

International Monetary Fund managing Director Michel Camdessus is expected to tell finance leaders that the world economy can escape a recession this year if oil prices do not skyrocket.

Officials said the strong economic performance of Germany and Japan will help offset downturns in the United States, Britain and Canada and allow G-7 growth, to average between one per cent and 1.5 per cent this year.

The need to put forward a united front to the market now that war has broken out will probably persuade G-7 members to temporarily set aside their economic differences.

Those differences arise mainly because the countries in the group are entering different stages of the economic cycle.

The United States, Britain, Canada, France and Italy worry about an economic slowdown and want to cut interest rates. But Germany and Japan, whose economies are still growing strongly,

are more concerned about inflation and do not seem willing to join in any rate cut.

France and Italy have also voiced concerns about the dollar, which has dropped some 20 per cent against the Deutsche mark over the past year. They worry the weak dollar will boost U.S. inflation and also make American products super-competitive on world markets.

But Germany and Japan appear unfazed by the dollar's decline, and the United States itself seems a bit divided, with its central bank more concerned than its Treasury Department.

Such differences, however, are likely to be swept aside as G-7 policy makers band together to try to show financial markets that they are in control.

"We're going to be closely working together to maintain stability in markets," a senior U.S. official said. "That's the message that will come from this meeting."

War signals uncertainty for skittish U.S. markets and ailing economy

already ailing U.S. economy.

"If the trend of military success is established I think the market should improve some more and stabilise," American Stock Exchange Chairman James Jones said. "But you can't predict wars."

Some economists still predict that a short war would bolster consumer confidence and energy spending by eliminating rallying uncertainty.

Others say the recession-bound U.S. economy has bigger hurdles to clear than war, such as disastrous real estate deals, tight credit, failing banks and decade-low consumer confidence.

"I don't know of anybody who is going to go out and buy a new car or replace the carpeting because the war is going well," said Donald Strasheim, chief economist with Merrill Lynch and Co.

"Confidence ebbed and reality began to set in. Like most wars, this one could be long, unpredictable and jarring to skittish financial markets and an

including the original missile assault on Israel and a second one a day later — has occurred early morning Middle East time, when American markets are closed.

So trading patterns are being set overseas, beginning in Tokyo or London, long before the opening bells ring in New York. That means New York may build a whole day's worth of trading on assumptions that get overturned within hours of the close.

For traders in the oil pits who lost millions during the crash in crude prices that followed the first air raids on Baghdad, the lessons were sobering. New York Mercantile Exchange traders expect some firms to go out of business after the collapse erased \$40 billion from the value of the world's inventory of crude oil.

"You're going to have people very reluctant to jump on this bandwagon again," said Rodney Dow, president of the oil trading firm Dow International Energy Corp. "They are shellshocked."

European car market seen headed for slowdown

PARIS (R) — The European car market will continue to shrink in 1991, but healthy demand in eastern Germany will temper the slowdown and sales should pick up by the end of the year, analysts and car markets say.

The first quarter of 1991 could prove the toughest for car makers, who enjoyed five years of strong growth in European sales before a modest, one per cent downturn last year.

Manufacturers foresee a more dramatic slowdown than analysts, but both camps agree eager buyers in former East Germany could brake the decline.

"Sales in former East Germany will strengthen European sales by about two per cent beginning this year," said Cyrille Constans-Gavarry, managing director of the Paris-based Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Economic (CETREC).

Consulting firm DRI/McGraw Hill projects 25,000 new vehicles will be sold in eastern Germany.

"Even if former East Germany does not absorb as many new vehicles, its purchases of used cars will help clean out inventories in western Germany, which will benefit from this draught," Constans-Gavarry said.

A spokesman for France's state-owned Regie Nationale des Usines Renault estimated the European market would shrink by between 2.5 and three per cent in 1991, with the decline

concentrated in the first four months.

Peugeot S.A. projects European car sales will drop about 3.5 per cent in 1991 to 12.8 million units.

Echoing Renault, Frederic Saint-Geours, managing director of Automobiles Peugeot, said the downturn would resemble "an upside-down circumflex accent" because after a fall off really in 1991, sales would climb back by the end of the year to their levels of late 1990.

Peugeot officials describe 1991 as a year of transition that could pave the way to a resurgence in 1992 and 1993.

Raymond Ravelin, president of the French Automobile Manufacturers Association, also foresees a 3.5 per cent contraction in the market.

Umberto Agnelli, president of Fiat Auto SPA, has said the downturn in sales could reach seven per cent.

The prospect of firm demand in Germany explains why Carl Hahn, president of Volkswagen A.G., considers himself "extremely optimistic in the medium term." He has predicted European sales would remain at "an extremely high level, despite some technical adjustments in the range of one or two per cent."

With the stimulus of new demand, Germany could distinguish itself from its neighbours, as it did between 1987 and 1989 when its market

remained stagnant while sales soared elsewhere in western Europe.

Analysts attributed the estimated one per cent decline in 1990 European sales — after a 32 per cent runup over the five preceding years — to the sluggish performance in Britain and Spain, where sales have fallen 12 per cent and six per cent, respectively.

They predicted sales would stabilise in Britain in 1991 and fall another five per cent in Spain, while the slowdown would spread to Italy and France.

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Occidental Petroleum plans \$2b restructuring

LOS ANGELES (R) — Occidental Petroleum has announced aggressive plans to return to its oil and gas roots with a \$2 billion restructuring plan, ending the company's dramatic diversification under late chairman Armand Hammer.

The company said it would cut its dividend by 40 per cent and reduce its \$8.8 billion debt by \$3 billion through asset sales.

Occidental, a conglomerate with interests ranging from chemicals to meat processing and film production, said it wants to sell assets that "no longer fit with the company's strategy."

Chairman and chief executive officer Ray Irani acknowledged the difficulty of restructuring Occidental in the current recessionary climate.

"We are keenly aware of the lack of liquidity in the marketplace, but we have some very valuable assets which are of interest to serious buyers with the ability to pay cash," Irani said.

Under the restructuring, Occidental will cut its generous quarterly dividend, considered sacrosanct under Hammer, to 25 cents per share from 62.5 cents.

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Weyland's remarks.

"There's no discussion that banks are the ones that have to take the lead in this (economic reform) process," he said.

Under the communist model of banking, central banks had a monopoly of commercial banking while a few specialised agencies handled areas such as foreign trade and personal banking.

The trend now is to set up a two-tier banking system, in which the central bank has true central bank responsibilities for monetary policy and the currency, while

its commercial activities are transferred to one or more new commercial banks.

Banking monopolies are ended at the same time, allowing new banks to open, existing specialised institutions to enter commercial banking, and commercial banks to move into the specialised areas.

The country furthest down this road is Hungary, where 40 or 50 banks have taken root since its banking reform began in 1987 while the country was under Communist Party rule.

PRAGUE (R) — Reform-minded eastern European countries must establish Western-style banking systems as a precondition for shifting to market economies, bankers from both East and West have said.

A functioning banking system is crucial to privatisation — the single most important reform which promises to transfer virtually the entire region's economy from state hands to entrepreneurs and shareholders in the next few years.

"Reorganisation of the bank-

Thousands in Moscow denounce Gorbachev over Baltics killings

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of protesters chanting "dictatorship will not pass" and denouncing President Mikhail Gorbachev over bloodshed in the Baltics massed under the walls of the Kremlin Sunday.

"Hangmen out of the Kremlin," "Down with the Communist Party," the throngs chanted as an orator read a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin proclaiming ordinary people if united could halt a return "to the old order."

Reuter reporters at the scene said thousands more demonstrators were flooding into the Manezh Square to join the rally — which comes at a time of high political tension — in a huge display of strength by radical reformers.

Simultaneously, in the far south of the Soviet Union, huge crowds of mourners filed through the streets of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku in memory of more than 100 people killed when the Soviet army seized control of the city exactly a year ago.

Yury Afanasyev, a parliamentary deputy and fierce critic of the Soviet president, told the

Moscow rally: "We are here to say a decisive no to the reactionary policy of Gorbachev and his team," the crowds chanted: "out out!"

Afanasyev said the demonstration was perhaps the largest staged in the capital by non-Communists since the 1917 October Revolution.

As they marched from the city's ring road down to Manezh Square on the edge of Red Square, the protesters chanted: "Hands off Lithuania" where last weekend 14 people died in a Soviet army operation that sparked a major political crisis.

Waving above the throng and the heads of children carried on their fathers' shoulders were the flags of the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — which are seeking to regain their pre-war independence from the Soviet Union.

Home-made banners carried by the crowds read "freedom is stronger than bullets" and "Lithuania today — Russia tomorrow."

Only small units of police looked on, without intervening.

In his message read by senior aide Gennady Bubilis from the

steps of the Moscow Hotel just 200 metres from the Kremlin's red-brick walls, Yeltsin declared:

"The danger of dictatorship about which key leaders of our society have warned is becoming a reality."

Gorbachev — seven of whose more liberal advisers have been excluded from a new executive team — and his colleagues had "practically rejected the former political policies and are openly supporting reactionary forces," the message declared.

There was no report on the rally by the Soviet News Agency TASS, or Moscow Radio's main services more than two hours after it began.

Radio Russia said its teleprinters carrying domestic news "have been mysteriously switched off."

Critics say Gorbachev, who has signalled since the start of the Gulf war Thursday that he is maintaining his policy of cooperation with the West, effectively backed his army's action in the Baltics by refusing to condemn it.

But allies of the Kremlin chief, who has condemned Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein as the guilty party for the Middle East conflict, say he is alarmed at the tension mounting in the country.

The president is a supporter of political dialogue. He is seeking a way out. But one thing is obvious — someone is trying to blame him for everything," said Anatoly Karpovtsev of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Aides to the 59-year-old Yeltsin, Gorbachev's main political rival and one-time colleague in the party politburo, said security worries kept him from the rally. Yeltsin says there have already been some attempts on his life.

The size of the turnout for Sunday's rally — varyingly estimated by foreign reporters at 60,000 to over 200,000 — appeared to underline the polarisation of Soviet society amid mounting economic as well as political crisis.

On Saturday, hard-liners calling for strong central authority to be restored and also supporting Iraq in the Gulf conflict also staged a rally — but they only attracted around 1,000 people.

Many countries begin to worry after Iraq calls for attacks

By the Associated Press

WORRIES about possible attacks by Iraqi sympathisers remained high in many countries despite Israel's apparent decision not to retaliate immediately against a second Iraqi missile attack Saturday.

Explosions and other violence appeared light despite a call from Baghdad for Muslims and Arabs to attack Western targets around the world.

The call was echoed in some other Muslim countries.

In Pakistan, a bomb ripped through a crowded theatre in Rawalpindi just before showtime Saturday, killing five people and injuring 48 others. No one claimed responsibility immediately.

In the Philippines, a bomb exploded Saturday near a U.S. government library, killing one person and injuring an Iraqi student. An Iraqi passport was found near the scene, police said.

The United States and other coalition members fear Israel's entry into the Gulf war could split Arab nations from the anti-Iraq alliance and expand the conflict to a war of Arabs versus Israel.

Japan announced that it would send blankets and portable stoves worth 12 million Japanese yen (\$89,000) to Jordan for the thousands of refugees expected to flee from Iraq.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reportedly was to inform U.S. officials Sunday that Japan will provide \$5 billion as an additional contribution to the U.S.-organised multinational forces against Iraq.

Iraq's call for Muslims around the world to unite against the "unjust war" by attacking Western interests came on the heels of the launch of a second round of Scud-style missiles at Israel on Saturday.

In Algeria, the ruling party called for Arab states to join Iraq in the war.

In Nigeria, a conservative Muslim leader urged solidarity with Iraq in a Saturday night speech. But the government vowed to crush any attacks on U.S. or other Western facilities.

Jordan's Parliament also strongly denounced allied attacks on Iraq and called on Arab and Islamic nations to strike out against the United States and its allies in the war.

Britain's Foreign Office warned Britons not to travel to 23 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East because of danger related to the Gulf war.

U.S. officials have said they're confident the treaty can be finished in time for the summit.

Alexei Obukhov and Reginald Bartholomew, the under-secretary of state for international security affairs, will lead the negotiators as they try to reach agreement on the strategic arms reduction treaty.

Several provisions in the start pact are unsettled, including procedures for monitoring production of solid rocket fuel and missile assembly plants.

Other thorny issues include a Soviet demand to inspect U.S. B-2 bomber plants and how much information from missile flight tests will be exchanged.

Bush had said all along he wouldn't hold summit unless the treaty was ready to be signed. But with U.S.-Soviet relations on the upswing, he announced last month he would go to Moscow to that the summit was still on.

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Croatia's Interior Ministry said in a statement that 228 rifles, 20 machine guns, 25 sub-machine guns, 76 handguns, dozens of hand grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition had been returned to police stations by Saturday.

Reports from the Serbian province of Kosovo say ethnic Albanians, who seek more autonomy from the largest Yugoslav republic, have refused to give up weapons they allegedly possess illegally.

Croatia and Slovenia advocate turning Yugoslavia into a loose confederation of allied states.

Communist-ruler Serbia and its ally, Montenegro, want to maintain the centralised federation. They are supported by the federal Army.

The two states seek more self-rule within the fractious Yugoslavia.

Slovenian and Croatian authorities, who ousted Communists in spring elections, put their militaries on highest alert, and citizens began stocking up food supplies, according to officials and media reports from both republics.

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